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**DRAFT - DESK STATEMENT
FLORIDA PHOSPHATE INITIATIVE
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EPA Region 4 is working with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the State of Florida to evaluate potential effects from increases in exposure to radiation due to phosphate mining in west-central Florida. Phosphate ore contains naturally occurring radioactive material that when brought to the surface through the mining process can increase the radiation exposure to the public. This type of low-level radioactive material is categorized as "technically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material" (TENORM).

EPA continues to work with ATSDR and the State to develop an appropriate process that will assess the potential impacts, while balancing socio-economic considerations associated phosphate mining and study area. This approach is being developed to address both former phosphate mining sites that are currently in EPA's inventory of sites, as well as, formerly mined land that may have since been developed.

Exposure to radiation is a daily occurrence of everyday life. There are many sources of radiation, including natural occurring material, man-made products, medical sources, and cosmic sources. The dose of radiation from exposure to TENORM is expected to be significantly less than the average annual dose from other natural and man-made sources.

Community involvement is an integral part of the Agency's mission.



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